

PROPOSED STATE OF ILLINOIS RULES AFFECTING SMALL BUSINESS

Following are proposed rules of possible interest to small businesses published in the September 16, 2005 *Illinois Register*. During the 45-day comment period, individuals have an opportunity to express their support or opposition to the rule. To submit comments or to learn more about the proposed rules, contact Katy Khayyat at the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Entrepreneurship Network Information Center via e-mail at kkhayyat@ildceo.net or call (800) 252-2923 or (217) 785-8020.

The following proposed regulation will impact those providing acupuncture services and those who train or provide continuing education (CE) for acupuncturists:

The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation proposed amendments for rules titled "Acupuncture Practice Act" (68 Ill. Adm. Code 1140) to increase the minimum number of curriculum hours needed for acupuncture training from 1725 to 1950 and specify that the curriculum shall be no less than 27 calendar months in duration. Theory and treatment techniques shall comprise 890 hours of the program rather than the current 705 hours, and no more than 90 hours (currently 92) may count toward "history and ethics and practice management". Biomedical clinical sciences must constitute at least 400 hours (currently 360) of the program, and 150 hours must be used solely for observation rather than 160 hours used for observation and case review. Concerning continuing education, approved self-study courses may be taken on-line, and the maximum number of credit hours per renewal for a postgraduate training program or for verified teaching in a college, university, or school of acupuncture is increased from 5 hours to 15. A maximum 5 hours of CE credit may also be earned for participation in an Illinois program related to acupuncture practice. The CE credit given for written material, presentations, exhibits, and published work is limited to papers published in a refereed professional journal or books. The Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Alliance is added to the list of approved CE sponsors, the names of 2 CE sponsors are updated, and herbal therapy or preparation is specifically excluded from allowable CE programs. Also, the incorporation by reference of national ethics and professional conduct standards is updated from the 1999 to the 2005 published standards.

Bottom Line: Curriculum requirements are being updated and continuing education requirements are being clarified. Technical changes are made to reflect the consolidation of agencies. For additional information, contact Barb Smith, 217-785-0813.

FYI - Employers Can Report New Hires Online

As part of the 1996 federal welfare reform law, employers must notify state governments about their new hires. The idea is to provide a way to check on whether any of those new workers are child support deadbeats.

Illinois has a new online system which provides a convenient, accessible tool that will help employers to report their new employees' information more quickly and easily.

The web address for the online reporting system is www.ilchildsupport.com.

Katrina Regulatory Relief Measures

Agencies are taking steps to provide regulatory relief to small businesses affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Office of Advocacy, U.S. Small Business Administration, has compiled an overview of many of the regulatory relief measures taken thus far by federal agencies. Advocacy's Federal Regulatory Relief Measures webpage can be found at www.sba.gov/advo/reg_katrina.html.

Heart of Illinois Trade Fair – October 4 – 5, 2005 – Peoria Civic Center

The Heart of Illinois Trade Fair is a business networking activity designed to create new markets for suppliers and new sources for buyers. This corporate and minority business exchange was designed to enable Minority Business Enterprises the opportunity to identify current marketplace needs and appropriate personnel within the area's leading corporations and government agencies. The 2005 Heart of Illinois Trade Fair has been aimed at providing Buyers and Procurement Decision Makers the opportunity to identify new competitive sources of services and supplies. The "Heart of Illinois Trade Fair was created to provide minority business owners an opportunity to efficiently market their capabilities and capacities to major corporations and government agencies in one location, in one day.

For more information, visit the website at www.get-government-contracts.com, or call (309) 495-5972.

Junk Fax Protection Act Allows Small Businesses to Communicate with Customers

The Junk Fax Prevention Act was signed into law on July 9. The law codifies the "established business relationship" exemption to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991, which small businesses have used over the past decade to send faxes to their customers.

In 2003 the FCC eliminated the established business relationship exemption and required all businesses to have express written permission from the recipient before sending a commercial advertisement via fax, regardless of any prior relationship. The FCC stayed enforcement of this rule three times in response to petitions from groups that represent many small businesses.

The Junk Fax Prevention Act overturns the overly broad regulations issued by the FCC in July 2003. Those regulations would have made it illegal for businesses to send faxes to even long-time customers unless they had specific written permission to send a fax to a particular number.

The legislation prohibits sending unsolicited fax ads to anyone who has requested that they cannot be sent. Unsolicited faxes can be sent if the senders have an established business relationship with the customer and the fax contains a conspicuous notice on its first page that the recipient may request not to be sent any further unsolicited faxes. To prevent third-party mass marketers from buying fax lists, businesses must obtain fax numbers either directly from the recipient, or from a published source such as a directory, advertisement or website.

I-Save RX Prescription Drug Program

Below you will find a link to information on the I-SaveRx Prescription Drug program. This program is another tool to assist businesses and employees if they do not have access to affordable prescription drug coverage. <http://www.i-saverx.net/>

To be removed from this mailing list, send an email to katy_khayyat@commerce.state.il.us and your name will be removed from all future mailings.